



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chesapeake Watershed Education Agreement

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship

*W*hereas, the Chesapeake Executive Council is committed to making environmental education and outreach a priority, through a variety of mechanisms, in order to achieve public awareness and personal involvement that will ultimately benefit the Chesapeake Bay and local watersheds.

*W*hereas, the Chesapeake Executive Council recognizes that environmental education should be an integral component of a student's education so that each graduating senior has the knowledge and skills necessary to be a good citizen with respect to the environment.

*W*hereas, the Chesapeake Executive Council, in collaboration with the National Geographic Society, has convened the *Chesapeake Education Summit* on November 29, 2005, to expand our partnership base and accelerate progress in achieving *Chesapeake 2000* education and outreach commitments and to:

- ❖ Strengthen the coordination among state and local education agencies, federal, state and local natural resource agencies, non-profit and community groups and educators throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed;
- ❖ Highlight the importance of hands-on, place-based education in teaching about vital natural resources and fostering Chesapeake stewardship; and
- ❖ Leverage the high level of interest in the 2007 observance of the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the Virginia Colony at Jamestown and the historic voyages of exploration of the Chesapeake Bay by Captain John Smith into a life-long commitment to Chesapeake Bay watershed protection and restoration:

*T*herefore, as a direct result of the *Chesapeake Education Summit*, the Executive Council agrees to the following actions as they relate to ongoing and future Bay education and outreach efforts:

- ❖ Highlight the importance of geography education and hands-on, place-based education in teaching about natural resources and fostering Chesapeake stewardship;
- ❖ Identify key benchmarks and tracking mechanisms to articulate progress toward *Chesapeake 2000* commitments as well as the necessary resources for such monitoring;
- ❖ Investigate the role of innovative technological approaches in support of Chesapeake Bay watershed environmental education;

- ❖ Investigate the role and potential of education networks and electronic resources for information sharing;
- ❖ Incorporate the history of Jamestown and Captain John Smith's voyages of exploration into curriculum and interpretive exhibits; and
- ❖ Continue existing initiatives designed to achieve the goals of the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement and expand upon the ongoing environmental educational efforts in all jurisdictions.
- ❖ Continually work to ensure that graduating students have been exposed to concepts in environmental literacy, including the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers, and have examined strategies to foster their restoration and protection.

Furthermore, the Chesapeake Executive Council and our stewardship and education partners jointly agree to *Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship*, which documents some of the existing, ongoing, new and developing initiatives being undertaken to engage our citizens and educate our children.

By this Agreement, we rededicate ourselves to the restoration and protection of this magnificent watershed and to providing our students and citizens of all ages with unparalleled opportunities to experience the cultural, historic and environmental richness of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

November 29, 2005

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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